

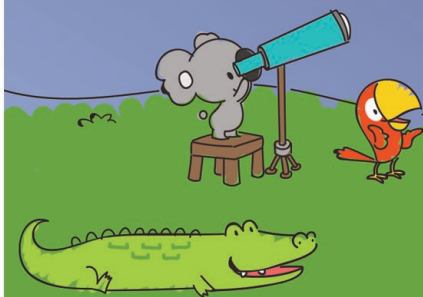
patterns in the sky

When you look up at night, do you see patterns or shapes in the sky made out of a group of stars? You're not the only one. Those patterns are called **constellations**.

The **Big Dipper** is one of the most famous star patterns in the sky. It's made from the seven brightest stars of Ursa Major.



Ursa Major is one of the largest constellations, and its name means "Great Bear." If you connect the stars, you can see the bear shape!



Ursa Minor means "Little Bear," but because of its shape and size, people have nicknamed it the Little Dipper.



The **North Star** is the brightest star in the Little Dipper. Sailors use this star to help them travel across the sea.

Orion is named after a hunter from famous Greek stories. It's easy to find Orion — just look for a line of three stars that make his belt!



Try to spot these well-known patterns the next time you go stargazing!